

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LINCOLN, RI 02865

DATE: January 23, 2007

TIME: 6:00 pm - Special Meeting - Budget Workshop - Open

PLACE: Lincoln High School Library

135 Old River Road, Lincoln RI

School Committee Members Present: Mary Ann Roll, Chair, Betty Robson, Vice Chair, John Zangari, Clerk, Richard Battistoni, Kristine Donabedian, Mary Varr, Julie Zito

Others Present: Joseph Nasif, Jr., Interim Superintendent, Georgia Fortunato, Lori Miller, Angelo Mencucci, Melinda Smith, Mark Gabois, Mary Carvalho, Linda Cliff, Margaret Knowlton, Monique Latessa, Kevin McNamara, Bruce Macksoud, Constance O'Riley, Joyce Ruppell,

Interim Superintendent noted conflicting schedules and asked that Kevin MacNamara be allowed to speak first.

Capital Improvements

High School - Kevin McNamara explained that the 300 section of the high school is the older part of the building and needs improvement in terms of painting, a new intercom system, carpet installation

outside the gym since it is a public entrance and stair treads around room 201. Fortunato explained the IA area is not handicap accessible and needs a lift.

Fairlawn - Joyce Ruppell reported the lavatory stalls are rusted at the bottoms and locks are not working causing a privacy issue for an estimate of \$7,050. She is requesting \$9,720 for carpeting in two rooms and \$7,200 in sound proofing in the multi-purpose room. She noted the art classes take place in that area and it is difficult to teach. The total includes an additional \$2,500 for tile replacement when the lav stalls are done. Gilbane has been invited to provide an estimate for the therapy room. Another area that needs to be looked at is the kitchen area which needs food warmers and a serving area. The proposal is to relocate the kitchen in the storage areas where OT and PT have been working out of and the therapy room would be fitted in the old kitchen. The bathroom at that level could be made ADA compliant. Zito commented on the \$32,000 balance that has been raised for this project and how the walls could be padded, with reinforced ceilings for a swing.

Central Elementary - Constance O'Riley stated her requests are for carpets and abatement for the main hall, replacing the lighting in the main hallway, painting classrooms and the multi-purpose room, replacing floors. The air conditioning would be last on her list. She has health concerns with the exhaust system in the conference room. Her priority is to lighten and brighten. It was noted ceiling fans were

requested because of the high temperatures.

Saylesville Elementary - Margaret Knowlton's number one request was to replace the toilets and urinals in the student bathrooms; the students are having trouble flushing the urinals. The second would be to install a new sound system in the multi-purpose room. Her last request was to paint common areas. If one area is done each year, all painting will be done in four years.

Northern Elementary - Linda Cliff is requesting the lettering on the building to separate the NELC. A little light, and newness would help. The ceiling in the multi-purpose room is in disrepair and the library needs new carpeting.

NELC - Monique Latessa reported she has scratched the canopy for the walkway. She is looking at carpeting for five of the first grade rooms. The gym lighting is not a priority. The bathrooms are old and in need of enlargement; there is no place to diaper. The toilets are old and sweat and the tile is old. She noted that whole wing have an odor to it. The classroom is half carpeted. Noise is also a problem with no insulation in the wall that divides the two rooms. She noted she would like it all, but if she has to prioritize the bathrooms would be first.

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Lonsdale Elementary - Mary Carvalho noted the school was built in 1958. With the new gym she feels it would be foolish to have the roof leak, so that is number one for her. And she expressed concern for the courtyard. Other upgrades would be to the lighting and sound system.

Interim Superintendent Nasif thanked the principals and asked Lori Miller to discuss the state cap. Miller explained that the town can't levy more than 5.25% over last year's budget. Mr. Nasif stated they would be scheduling a meeting with the town to get a better perspective of revenues and expenditures. A member of the budget board asked if there was any idea of the state contribution and Miller stated the Governor is proposing a 3% increase but she has heard the legislature is saying no, there is a deficit. She noted emergency exemptions are not given easily.

Audit Overview - Lori Miller highlighted the audit report with a positive amount of \$104,000, but \$82,00 is encumbered for textbooks. Under revenue and expenditures is \$1,300,000, which is the in-kind contribution from the state for the pension fund, in addition to the employer portion Lincoln pays. Under the enterprise funds if net asset of \$162,000 for the lunch program. She noted the importance of having a positive balance to start the year. The lunch fund actually

returned \$28,000 for reinvestment for the kitchen. Unrestricted funds shows \$40,530,032 and the town transferred \$40,533,036. Athletic funds to pay officials shows a positive balance of \$648,000, but that is before the activities started. Revenues show \$171,00 in aid. \$793,000 was collected in medicaid and \$711,000 was spent and Miller actually estimated a \$600,000 transfer. There were two funds, special education and Title I, that qualify for a single audit. Miller noted there were no issues in reporting. The Interim Superintendent commended Miller on the audit and her timely submission of documents.

School Department - Interim Superintendent Nasif pointed out small increases in some lines, the increase in the legal services and in the Superintendent's advertising budget, especially with upcoming negotiations. He noted dues have gone up as well.

Curriculum - Melinda Smith reported the curriculum advisory met and updated the curriculum cycle and noted business, family/consumer science, social studies and science. The Latin curriculum has to be written. Guidance has starting writing their curriculum because of NEASC. There have been some pending issues with library, PE and music. There will be a lot going on next year with the GSEs in social studies. Printing costs will increase and they are considering a digital approach.

Technology - Mark Gadbois reported he wears many hats, noting there were 500 new computers added with the middle school. Under

his data hat is reporting which includes 2500 student accounts and they will be adding parents' accounts, plus portfolio management. Another person is needed for account management and that will enable him to help the other technicians. He received a \$22,000 grant this year and will be finishing up a \$32,000 grant.

Business Operations - Lori Miller requested \$450,000 in the sub line, noting the key to the cap is the closer they get the more they need to hold the line. She is taking the secretary sub line and charging it back to each school so they can match it. Miller explained one of the accounting technicians was cut. Mileage was increased as the rate was increased at the Federal level and there is more usage. She noted tuitions for Charter schools is an estimate since they don't know a student is there until they receive the bill. Technical services was reduced from \$60,000 to \$35,000. Miller is looking at a projection for next year's utilities by school. There is a \$3,000 increase in the non-public textbook line. Robson noted she would like to see subs by school and Miller noted Aesop will help with that. Regarding fixed expenses Miller reported more non-certified people are taking advantage of the pension. She estimated health increae at 10% and dental at 7%. Unemployment was higher because of the number of lay offs over the summer and she isn't sure what to project for next summer.

Personnel - Georgia Fortunato reported on the salary change of \$50,000 because of the new personnel coordinator.

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Non-Instructional - Angelo Mencucci reported the increase in the custodial sub line, noting this is an opportunity to review an individual prior to hiring. He reported they move a lot of furniture around. It used to be stored in four garages on Route 116 but now is in a storage facility. He noted vandalism and theft seems to come in waves. Mr. Nasif stated they try to collect back on vandalism when possible. As the fleet of autos grows and ages, this line increases. A budget board member asked if they ever considered outside services for custodial work and Miller explained they have to consider the bargaining unit. Mencucci has increased transportation by 3%.

Student Services - Georgia Fortunato reported there are 621 special education students and 138 employees. The largest part of the budget is purchased services. There are approximately 26 students out of district. This year \$536,000 was budged for purchased services and she is increasing it by \$50,000. She noted purchased services includes evaluations, consultants from such places as the Groden Center, nursing services and equipment such as oxygen. She noted shealso gets a list of all three years old in Lincoln that will have to be serviced either for special needs or for pre-school. She

reviewed many initiatives for the 2006-2007 school year, including overseeing nurses, inclusive classes, a transition program at the high school and many new programs.

Motion to adjourn by Zito. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor. Motion carried.

JOHN ZANGARI, CLERK DATE